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***DEPARTMENT:*** *PERFORMING ARTS*

***COLLEGE:*** *ARTS AND HUMANITIES*

***MATRIC NO:*** *19/ART02/006*

***LECTURER IN CHARGE:*** *MR. MACAULAY*

*ANALYSIS OF TWO PLAYS OF YOUR CHOICE USING ARISTOLES SIX ELEMENTS OF A PLAY.*

*SELECTED PLAYS;*

* *Childe International by Wole Soyinka (Classic)*
* *Alone and Frightened by Abiodun Macaulay (Modern)*

**THE SIX ARISTOTELIAN ELEMENTS OF A PLAY**

* Plot
* Theme of a play
* Characters
* Dialogue
* Music/Rhythm
* Spectacle

**ANALYSIS OF CHILDE INTERNATIONAL BY WOLE SOYINKA**

**PLOT**

This play depicts a culture clash between the African culture and Western ways. Kotun, a typical African man is preparing for his political party meeting so he goes down for lunch to meet his wife seated in the parlour. He opens his plate and discovers a strange looking meal and he closes back then calls for the home cook Godwin, to ask for his food because he refused to believe what had been presented was his. Wife then informs him that is his food which she prepared especially because their daughter ‘Titi’ was coming home and she does not enjoy eating ‘native food’. (In this, the wife who represents ‘westernization’ described African traditional meals as ‘native food’). Kotun had no choice but to try and eat his food but he gets frustrated because he is not used to eating such foreign meals. He is then informed that his daughters’ birthday was coming up so he uses the opportunity to request some eba but his Wife already getting agitated with very idea of eating what she described as ‘native food’. As the conversation ends, Titi barges into the house flinging her suitcase on the floor and pretty much letting the entire neighbourhood know she was home. She goes straight to go and say hi to her mother and she ignores her father’s presence completely and only greets him after she is scolded and made to do so. Her mother asked her about school and her report card but Titi appears not to care about her report card and she gave ready rude responses to her father after her asked for it and her father was on the verge of spanking her but the wife cut in and told Kotun to let it be but he was not having it. Titi then makes matters worse by informing her parents she has been skipping geography lessons to watch her teacher dance ballet and Kotun rose the roof and his temper had started building up but the wife told him not to shout at Titi which only made things worse. After Kotun finally settles down Titi asked her mom if there are superstitious natives about and her mother gives her replies that were not satisfying enough and this led him to talk about their great ancestors on his side and silly Titi asks her father if her friends could come see her ‘superstitious native’ and he replied her with more than enough sarcasm which the wife tells him to stop.

Titi then brings up her boyfriend Alvin, who will be coming to their home for dinner that day and her mother agrees but Kotun definitely refused he was wondering whose permission she took and he assures her that he is definitely not coming to his house so wife decided to tell Titi to go upstairs so she can talk to Kotun and she tried her best to make him see reason and understand but he refused and even insults his wife. Titi then begins to play loud music with her fathers’ radiogram and he rebukes her for touching it n the first place and his wife tells him to leave her alone while Titi is being extremely rude to her father. While all this was taking place, Alvin knocks on the door and comes in with lack of respect he offers a handshake to Mr Kotun and he is chased out of the house which leaves Titi crying to her mother that her father just chased her boyfriend away, the wife challenged Kotun informing him that he has made her daughter the laughing stock of the entire school and Kotun insults her on the fact that she has only spent 4 years abroad and she won’t let the household rest, while those who spent 10 years still perform their duties as wives. Feeling very insulted, the wife questions him about Titi’s birthday party and he informs her that it won’t happen because Titi did not seek permission before she decided to throw a party and Titi, very upset charges at her father and tells him not to be silly and Kotun took it very serious but the wife tried her best to tell him its not a big deal, and this only makes him angrier, he had been pushed to the wall so he took the opportunity to tell Godwin to make some really spicy stew and amala and he told him to leave and he attacks his daughter but is stopped by his wife who he drags and disciplines too and before you know it the wife herself disciplines Titi.

**THEME OF A PLAY**

The theme of this play is to express a culture clash between African Culture as we know it and the ways of the white man, with Kotun representing African Culture and his wife representing the western ways while their daughter Titi is the aftermath of this culture clash. The wife travelled abroad to further her education and she spent 4 years, but by the time she came back home to Nigeria her entire lifestyle had changed, she had let the western ways inflict in such a way that she abandoned her home training, morals and most importantly her cultural value and it affects her marital life. Their daughter Titi, being easily influenced by her mother, knows no better so she misbehaves both towards her mother and father and this is as a result of lack of discipline. As much as Kotun dislikes the attitude of both his wife and his daughter, he only made attempts to correct them once his daughter insulted him by calling him ‘silly’, and this would have been avoided if he had raised his child the proper way, that way the wife will not influence Titi 100%. In general, the play also teaches lessons on respect and discipline.

**CHARACTERS**

**KOTUN;** He is the major character of the play. Kotun is a typical African Yoruba man who values culture. He works as a politician and has a beautiful wife and daughter, Titi. By reading the play, one would be able to identify certain character traits in Kotun most especially the fact that he does not take nonsense and he seems to have zero tolerance for it, he values respect and is a disciplined and hardworking man who built himself and takes good care of his family. He funded his wife’s further education to study secretary-ship abroad but he was not satisfied with her behaviour when she got back but he refused to make fuss over it, but when she pushed him to the wall, he had no option but to pour out all of his anger and he even concluded with spanking her back to her senses. His role is expected to bring about comic relief to the audience which is the importance of whoever is playing the role to perform properly; if the actor doesn’t get it right, it kills the entire comedy in the play.

**WIFE;** She is a modern character, and plays the role as Kotun’s wife. Her name was not stated or mentioned at any point during the play so it remains unidentified and unknown to the audience. She is a woman of ‘western ways’ even though she only spent 4 years abroad learning ‘secretary-ship’ she came back to Nigeria with a whole new attitude which her husband was not pleased with. He complained about it several times in the play but she was oblivious towards his complaints and decided to do what she wanted. She changed the lifestyle of her family and her daughter is most affected by it. Her role is expected to represent westernization and bring the concept of ‘culture clash’ to life.

**TITI;** Like her mother, Titi is a modern character and plays the role of Kotun and his wife’s daughter. She represents the spoilt brat who gets everything she wants. She is currently in university and once she is home from school, she gives her parents he worst of her attitudes. She seems like a child that is most likely to drop out from school without her parent’s information because she already skips classes just because she doesn’t like her teacher. Her father does not like the fact that Titi is spoilt but he can’t do anything because he knows her mother is the greatest cause of her behaviour, but Titi pushed her father to the wall when she called him ‘silly’ and she got what she should have been getting.

**GODWIN;** He is the housekeeper and cook. In the play his character is expected to set off some comic relief, even though Kotun’s character takes up most of the comedic aspect of the play, his respweonse to Kotun’s calls are meant to be somewhat funny.

**DIALOGUE**

Dialogue is not simply conversation between characters. It has the semblance of conversation but functions in a very ‘engineered’, purposeful multidimensional, structural way. In the play, child international, the dialogue uses the conversations of the character to portray the message of the play. The dialogue focuses mainly on the character Kotun whose lines perform a major function in the script. Every conversation or cut in given by Kotun in one way or the other adds value to the script and helps promote the message being passed.

**MUSIC/RHYTM**

The music used in this play added certain effect to it. For example, the song played when Titi went upstairs gives room for Kotun to react which led to the wife reacting. In general music always adds that aesthetic and finishing touches to a production and makes it possible for a planned action to take place.

**SPECTACLE**

This aspect covers the set, costumes and props used during the production. Considering the fact that it is a one scene, one act play, the set design will be simple. The play is based on a modern family, so the set should contain; furniture, a centre table, a dining section complete with table linen, a book shelf for aesthetics, a centre piece for the tables, etc. The set will have two entrances, one representing the front door of the house which will be used by Alvin and Titi and the other representing the door in the house which will be used by Godwin and Titi.

The costumes are expected to let the audience know the role each character is playing so the costumes have to be good. Kotun is playing the role of an African politician and with that, the most suitable costume for him is agbada, Unlike her husband, Wife is a modern character whose role requires a simple dress, as for Titi, a simple short dress would do. Alvin would wear baggy jeans and a t shirt while Godwin will wear his chef costume.